

Sutherland Stepping Stones Childrens Centre Day Care of Children

Education Department
Brora Youth Access
Education Buildings
Johnstone Place
Brora
KW9 6PJ

Telephone: 07791156725

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

23 May 2019

Service provided by:

CALA Integrated Services

Service provider number:

SP2010011308

Service no:

CS2010278954

About the service

This service has been registered since 2011.

Sutherland Stepping Stones Children's Centre is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 30 children under the age of 16. The service is provided by CALA Integrated Services. The centre provides day care provision and is open Monday to Friday. The service operates throughout the year and is closed for two weeks over the Christmas period, two weeks during the summer and Good Friday and Easter Monday.

Sutherland Stepping Stones Children's Centre is located in the community centre next to Brora Primary School. The premises consist of a large activity room with kitchen area, two small quiet rooms, toilets and an office. The playroom opens directly onto the service's outdoor play area. The playing fields and school playground are available for outdoor activities and the service has regular use of the soft play area and school gym.

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people - and what they can do to improve. Getting it right for every child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it right for every child. They are: safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; responsible; and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

What people told us

During the inspection we spoke with three parents, seven parents and carers gave us feedback through our questionnaires. They were all very positive in their comments about the quality of the service provided.

Comments made included: "Really pleased with Stepping stones staff are experienced and enthusiastic about the children."

Very happy ..staff are always willing to chat about my child. They definitely care about each child."

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We sought information linked to their own improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. These helped us assess the priorities for development and how the service was monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support

5 - Very Good

Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Children were very well cared for by the staff group, who knew them well. The staff's mixture of experience and measured interactions promoted a real ethos of respect in their interactions with the children and their parents/carers.

Learning journeys were sampled and noted that this area of practice had been an area of review and improvement. Information held is open to parental review and staff are keen to embed the sharing of the children's achievements with parents/carers through this document.

Children had a strong sense of ownership of these records and were proud of their work.

Children have regular access to active play and staff are keen to maximise the use of the outdoor environment. Staff had a very good understanding of the value of active outdoor play and took time to seek children's views to support and promote imaginative play linked to outdoor activities.

The use of dedicated outside play continues to be fully embedded and staff have been proactive in supporting children's access to these resources through "free flow." Staff continue to review the use of 'loose parts' - the provision of open-ended resources to support creativity, problem solving and collaboration and decision-making to support imaginative play.

Staff planning for transitional arrangements between the service and the primary early level class was fully embedded and children had been visiting the school in recent weeks.

Staff provided children with reassurance by giving cuddles and space and time for the children to express their wishes, thus leading to the children feeling nurtured and valued. Children throughout the service had opportunities to engage in a varied and stimulating environment.

Mind maps assisted staff in supporting children in helping to shape their learning.

What the service could do better

While the outside environment continues to engage children's imagination and creativity we discussed with staff further opportunities to develop the use of heuristic natural resources within the centre itself.

Staff have undertaken training linked to the promotion of numeracy and evidenced a willingness to access on going opportunities to expand their knowledge of early years practice.

We agreed that the use of "champions" linked to sharing training and areas of interest with the team could be further developed.

We discussed the need for the manager to review accident and incident records to ensure practice remains in line with best practice and the local authority expectations.

Staff had been reflecting on the Health and Social Care Standards and were developing their understanding of this document. We believe these should be highlighted to parents/carers so that future improvements and review of the service can be shared and understood by all stakeholders.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

There are no outstanding recommendations.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
22 Jun 2017	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed
16 Jun 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
21 Jun 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good
7 Jul 2011	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good

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